

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**PARADIS ARTIFICIELS BY MYRIAM LAPLANTE**  
**At Galerie Donald Browne Art Contemporain**

Montreal, November 22nd 2009 Gallery Donald Browne presents PARADIS ARTIFICIELS, an occasion to discover the most recent sculptures by Myriam Laplante, from November 21st to December 22nd 2009.

A garden Gnome is a small humanoid creature living in the subterranean world with an irreverent nature. Cheerful little beings of a benevolent nature, it usually symbolizes an awkward and lethargic routine incarnating the euphoria of the absence of consciousness. The non-thinking being, ignorant of the sorrows of this world, it is reassuring in this era of turmoil and anxiety.

Myriam Laplante proposes a small gathering of garden gnomes each of its own particular universe unconcerned with the laws of human gravity.

Myriam Laplante was born in Bangladesh in 1954 and grew up in Québec. She has been living in Italy since 1985. She started performing while studying Visual Arts and Linguistics at Ottawa University. After concentrating on painting, installations and photography she started performing again in 1991. She has been a member of Black Market International since 2001.

In recent years, her works are cynical replies triggered by the absurdities of contemporary society and power-dealing politics on every level. She re-stages the internal tension between desire and memory, power and submission, investigating the fine dividing line that separates limbo from reality, or that transforms reality into limbo, or vice-versa.

Her early performances were essentially self-portraits. By embodying circus side-show attractions (bearded lady, dancing monkey), a crying ghost or a mutant mermaid, she addresses alienation and the difficulty to communicate, the refusal to adapt to society and the cynicism of the dominant sects.

Her work is in the public collections of the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (Rome) and the Museo di Arte Contemporanea (Rome), the Musée du Québec (Québec) and the National Museum of Photography (Ottawa).